



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
**June 20, 2006**

**Contact: Brad Sherwood**  
**707.521.6204**

### **Restructured Agreement for Water Supply Approved**

#### ***Agreement Expands Focus on Water Conservation, Recycled Water Use and Development of Local Supplies***

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency Board of Directors (Sonoma County Board of Supervisors) today unanimously approved (Supervisor Kelley was absent) the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply between the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency), its eight water contractors, and the Town of Windsor. The Restructured Agreement includes expanded emphasis on water conservation, recycled water use, and development of local supplies.

“The Agency and its contractors worked diligently together to agree on improvements to the existing water supply agreement,” said Pam Jeane, deputy chief engineer of operations for the Agency. “There is a regional commitment from our contractors to not only provide safe, affordable drinking water to their customers, but to continue protecting the environment by conserving and recycling water.”

The purpose of the past agreement between the Agency and its contractors was limited to the Agency providing water to the contractors, and the contractors paying for operations, maintenance, and capital costs of the water transmission system. New provisions and funding mechanisms are included in the Restructured Agreement to allow for completion of environmental improvements and enhancements that allow for the sustainable use of Russian River water.

Specifically, the Restructured Agreement includes:

- Requirements for contractors to become members of the California Urban Water Conservation Council, implement water conservation best management practices (or implement alternative water conservation measures that secure at least the same level of water savings), and file annual reports on progress with best management implementation.
- A commitment by the water contractors to use best efforts to bring local supply or recycled water projects on-line that will reduce demand on the Agency’s water transmission system by 7,500 ac-ft within 10 years with approximately 50 percent of this amount to result from recycled water projects.

- Goal-setting for each contractor to achieve and maintain local water production capacity capable of satisfying approximately 40 percent of the contractor's average day of the maximum month demand.
- A section that allows the Agency to construct, fund, partially fund, or acquire recycled water and local supply projects that reduce demand on the transmission system if approved by the contractors. A related section provides for funding by the contractors for such projects.
- Requirements of the Agency to periodically prepare a regional Urban Water Management Plan in accordance with state requirements. A related section provides for funding by the contractors for this planning effort.
- A section that provides that, with the contractors' consent and after considering suggestions from others, the Agency may undertake any action, study or project related to watershed planning and restoration (restoration and maintenance plans and projects, water quality monitoring, public education/outreach, third party studies/projects, groundwater studies/investigations, etc.). A related section provides for funding of this work by the contractors.
- A new sub-section that provides for a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in addition to the current Water Advisory Committee (WAC). The TAC will be made up of non-elected representatives selected by each contractor and has only the power to make recommendations to the WAC. The WAC will continue to be made up of elected representatives, will review and vote on significant proposals set forth by the Agency, and will continue to function as the collective spokesperson for the water contractors.

In addition, the Forestville Water District will no longer be a contractor of the Agency under the new Restructured Agreement. Ownership, operation and maintenance responsibility of the Forestville Aqueduct will transfer from the Agency to the Forestville Water District. Meanwhile, the Town of Windsor was added as a contractor of the Agency.

“Staff from both the Agency and its contractors worked together over the past several years to create the Restructured Agreement,” said Jeane. “The Agency is proud to continue offering flood protection and high quality water to its contractors, who in turn supply drinking water to a population of more than 600,000 residents in Sonoma and Marin counties.”

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*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for*

*Sonoma and Northern Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*